

# Jamaica Inn

## 7: Shipwreck



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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### Language focus: Past perfect

#### Mary narrating

It's morning...I have just woken up in my bed in Jamaica Inn. Memories of what I saw on Christmas Eve **haunt** me like a **nightmare** ...

My uncle forced me to travel with him and his drunken men on Christmas Eve. I was so tired on the journey that while they were singing drunken songs, I fell asleep.

**When I woke up, they had gone.** The carriage doors were locked, but I escaped through the window.

**They had brought me to the coast.** It was a cold, **misty** night, but from where I was standing on the clifftop, I could see my uncle and his **gang** below on the shore, silent and still. They were watching the **tide** coming in, like a beast waiting to **pounce**.

The mist began to clear and a light appeared on a nearby cliff. At last! **The officers the vicar had spoken about were coming!** ... But my hope disappeared quickly. ... Another light appeared out at sea. This one was moving up and down... I realised then with horror what was happening. The light on the cliff was a **trap!**

A huge black shape appeared out of the darkness. Like a **moth** to a candle, the ship was heading for the rocks...

I remember now how I ran to the shore, how I screamed and shouted... but my uncle caught me and tied my hands so I couldn't move. I couldn't do anything except watch the disaster happen.

#### Mary

The men splashed about in the water grabbing **treasures that had fallen** from the ship. Bodies were floating on the water. The men fell on them and took everything of value ...even rings on the fingers. Hours passed. Light was appearing in the sky. My uncle saw it too.

#### Joss

Whoah!! ... Stop everyone! ... Look!

**Mary narrating**

He pointed to the sky.

**Harry**

Just... going... to get...

**Joss**

Leave it! ... There's no time! ... It's getting light... Get out of here! ... before it's too late.

**Mary narrating**

But no one was listening. They were greedily grabbing what they could.

**Mary narrating**

**My uncle had fired his pistol** in the air. The men looked up and saw the sky. Fear struck them and they ran up the beach, carrying what they could... They knew they had stayed too long. Morning was their enemy... I was too weak to move, but my uncle picked me up and carried me... In the **panic**, the carriage overturned. That meant there was only one small cart for everyone's escape.

**Joss**

Stand back! ... I say stand back! ... Harry, make sure no one moves... Shoot if necessary... I said...

**Mary narrating**

There was blood everywhere... two men lay still... I **fainted**.

**Patience**

Mary, are you awake?

**Mary**

How long have I been lying here?

**Patience**

Two days.

**Mary**

Why didn't you wake me?

**Patience**

Mary... I...

**Mary**

I've got to get up...

**Patience**

Where are you going? Your uncle is downstairs.

**Mary**

He doesn't frighten me... I must go and find...

**Patience**

He's never been like this before. He's locked all the doors. He's afraid of someone... I don't know who...

**Patience**

Don't go down, Mary, he's got a gun...!

**Mary narrating**

All the doors and windows are **bolted**. My uncle is sitting in the kitchen...

**Joss**

I heard noises outside. Did you hear anything?  
He'll come... He warned me but I didn't listen... We didn't plan it this time.

**Mary**

What do you mean? Who warned you? The officers?

**Joss**

Them...? They can't touch me. They need **proof** and all they have is a broken ship and two bodies. I wasn't there, was I – I was at home with my wife and niece cosy by the fire... No, it's him... He'll murder us all...

**Mary**

I don't understand. My uncle planned the wrecks, didn't he... or did he? Was there someone else who gave the orders? Who is he so afraid of?

**Patience**

Why don't we get away quickly now?

**Joss**

You idiot! There are people everywhere who know what I've done. They'd like to see me hang... we'll stay till night time, when it's dark... We'll leave then!

**Mary narrating**

I go along with my uncle's plan, but in my mind I'm making other plans – I'll escape somehow and find the vicar... He's my only hope...

Meet me in the next episode when things get even worse and I make a shocking discovery that will completely change my life at Jamaica Inn.

## **Vocabulary**

### **haunt**

stay in your mind and make you upset

### **nightmare**

a frightening dream

### **misty**

with a thin fog

### **gang**

a group of people

### **tide**

daily change in the level of the sea which makes the water move higher or lower on the shore

### **pounce**

jump quickly onto something or someone

### **trap**

a trick to catch someone

### **moth**

an insect like a butterfly that flies at night and is attracted to light

### **panic**

sudden fear that stops you thinking clearly

### **fainted**

became unconscious

### **bolted**

locked with a metal bar across a door or window

### **proof**

information that shows that something is true